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TS 158992

1 MAR 1957

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Brigadier General A. J. Goodpastor, Jr.  
White House Staff Secretary

**SUBJECT :** Downward Revision of Estimates on Soviet BISON  
Strength

1. In National Intelligence Estimates published in May 1955 (NIE 11-3-55) and March 1956 (NIE 11-56), the Intelligence Advisory Committee estimated that the USSR had about 40 BISON jet heavy bombers in operational units on 1 January 1956, and that it would probably have about 80 in operational units on 1 July 1956.

2. In a National Intelligence Estimate published in August 1956 (NIE 11-4-56), the Intelligence Advisory Committee estimated that on 1 July 1956, the USSR had about 35 BISONs in operational units. This downward revision, from 80 previously estimated, resulted from new evidence indicating that BISON production during the preceding year had been at a lower rate than previously estimated, in part because of production difficulties. The new estimate was also based on reports by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

O/DD/I (1 Mar 57)

Addressee - O&I

Signer - 2

O/DD/I - 1 ✓

ONE - 1